

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 JUSE-00
FBIE-00 SY-05 /065 W
-----012538 130227Z /65

O R 130135Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6056
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY RASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY L PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6664

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINT SHUM OTRA CI
SUBJECT: GOC OFFICIALS COMMENT ON CHANGES IN DINA: CREATION OF
CNI

REF: STANTIAGO 6642

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN AND I MET FIRST WITH INTERIOR
MINISTER BENAVIDES AND THEN WITH PRESIDENT PINOCHET THIS
AFTERNOON. DURING THE DISCUSSIONS, WE SOUGHT CLARIFICATION
OF THE DETAILS OF THE ABOLITION OF DINA.

2. INTERIOR MINISTER BENAVIDES SAID THAT THE NEWLY CREATED
CNI (NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTER) WOULD BE A DEPENDENCY OF
THE INTERIOR MINISTRY AND WOULD NOT RPT NOT HAVE ARREST
POWERS. HE CONFIRMED THIS FUNCTION WOULD BE TURNED OVER TO THE
JUDICIAL POLICE ("INVESTIGACIONES DE
CHILE"--(IC)) AND THE CARABINIEROS, BOTH OF WHICH ARE UNDER
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THE JURISDICTION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

3. IN DISCUSSING OTHER MEASURES UNDER CONSIDERATION,
PRESIDENT PINOCHET SAID THAT A FURTHER REDUCTION IN
THE STATE OF SEIGE AND AN ALLEVIATION OF THE CURFEW
WERE BEING STUDIED.

4. COMMENT: IN EFFECT, DINA WAS A POLITICAL POLICE
FORCE OPERATING UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF THE PRES-
DENT. DINA PERSONNEL (ALTHOUGH REDUCED FROM 3800 TO 2500)
ARE SIMPLY BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE NEW AGENCY. IT IS
SIGNIFICANT THAT THE NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTER WILL
NOT HAVE ARREST POWERS. THERE IS RISK OF COURSE THAT CNI, SHOULD
IT OPERATE ILLEGALLY, COULD BECOME FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENT OF DINA.
WE HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE, AND HOW CARBIBINEROS AND IC USE THEIR
POWERS OF ARREST AND DETENTION REMAINS AN OPEN QUESTION. IN
THE MEANTIME, USG PUBLIC REACTION SHOULD BE CAUTIOUSLY UP-BEAT,
A STANCE ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN WILL ADOPT AT A PRESS CON-
FERENCE TOMORROW WHEN THE SUBJECT COMES UP.
BOYATT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONAL SECURITY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTIA06664
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770292-0034
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770864/aaaacbt.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e930f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1609599
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOC OFFICIALS COMMENT ON CHANGES IN DINA: CREATION OF CNI
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, OTRA, OVIP, PORS, PINS, CI, US, DINA, (TODMAN, TERENCE A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e930f25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009